

SOME EARLY STAGES OF *CHARAXES LATONA* BUTLER
(LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE: CHARAXINAE)

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Abstract

Two instars and the pupa of *Charaxes latona* Butler are described and a food plant listed.

Introduction

Within Australian limits *Charaxes latona* is only known from the Claudie River area (Common and Waterhouse, 1981). Specimens may be taken throughout the year. Males frequent hilltops but females are more often seen flying along roads and watercourses. While examining lauraceous plants at Iron Range a single charaxid larva was found. This was raised on the netted food plant and proved to be *Charaxes latona*.

Early stages

Third(?) instar. Head rough with two pairs of long horns, inner pair, top and perimeter of head black, outer pair and remainder of head brown. Body green, covered with minute yellow granules, dorsum of sixth segment with a semicircular white area, margined black. Final segment with a pair of short, brown, backward-pointing processes. Length 14 mm.

Final instar (Fig. 1). Head granulose, green, perimeter pale brown, with two pairs of long horns and two pair of short pointed projections between these, the horns and apex of projections dark brown. Body green, covered with minute yellow granules. Sixth segment with a semicircular pink area margined white and then black. Eighth and tenth segments bear subdorsal circular patches of white, margined black. Granules within all black areas pale blue. Final segment processes yellow, joining a yellow lateral line. Length 47 mm.

Pupa (Fig. 2). Stout, smooth, shiny, green, with two irregular white bands on wing cases and pale white markings on remainder. Length 27 mm.

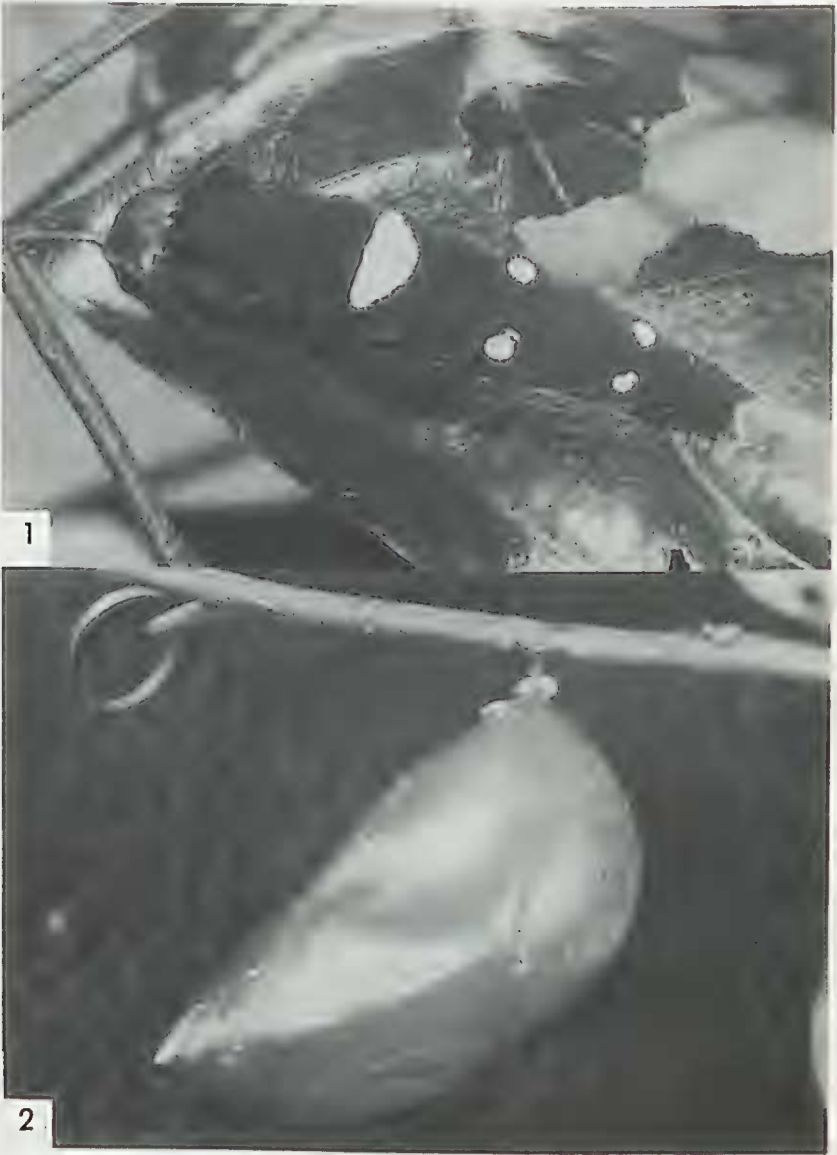
Larval food plant. *Cryptocarya triplinervis* R.Br. Lauraceae.

Notes

A single larva was found on the 12th July resting on a silken pad at the centre of a leaf. I enclosed the branch in a netting bag and the larva completed two more instars, pupating beneath the branch on 12th September; the adult emerging on 28th September.

Acknowledgement

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Figs 1, 2. *Charaxes latona*: (1) final instar larva at rest on food plant; (2) pupa.

Reference

Common, I. F. B. and Waterhouse, D. F., 1981. *Butterflies of Australia*. Second edition. Angus and Robertson, Sydney. 682 pp.